LIMONIUM PLANT NAMED 'DANLISABLUE'

Latin name of the genus and species of the claimed plant:

Limonium altaica

Variety denomination

Danlisablue

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Limonium* plant, botanically known as *Limonium altaica,* hereinafter referred to by the variety denomination 'Danlisablue'.

Limonium, of the *Plumbaginaceae* family, is commonly known as sealavender. *Limonium* is found wild on sea coasts and marshes across the Northern Hemisphere.

The new cultivar originated from an open pollination of *Limonium* plants within a breeding program field, discovered in a controlled environment in Moshav Hashiva, Israel. The female parent is proprietary cultivar designated 'PTE' (unpatented). The male parent is unknown. 'Danlisablue' was discovered and selected by the inventor, Gabriel Danziger, as a flowering plant within the progeny of the open pollination program in Moshav Mishmar Hashiva, Israel.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by tissue culture was first performed in August, 2001, in Moshav Mishmar Hashiva, Israel, and has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar reproduces true-to-type.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

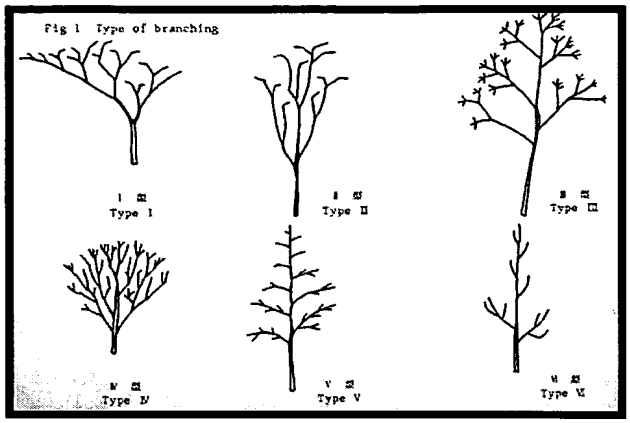
The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of 'Danlisablue' which in combination distinguish this *Limonium* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Blue flower color, RHS 93 B;
2. high stems 70-90 cm;
3. panicle branching habit;
4. flexible stems; and
5. yield of stems per plant in the first flash, 6-10 stems.

'Danlisablue' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and daylength without any change in the genotype of the plant. The following observations, measurements and values describe the new cultivar as grown in Moshav Mishmar Hashiva, Israel under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'Danlisablue' is the cultivar 'Tall Emille' (unpatented). In comparison to 'Tall Emille', 'Danlisablue' has flexible stems whereas 'Tall Emille's has durable stems, and 'Danlisablue' has a narrow shaped inflorescence and panicle branching habit (Type IV, Chart 1) while 'Tall Emille' has an open and wide shaped inflorescence (Type I, Chart 1).

Chart 1



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Limonium* showing the colors as true as is reasonably possible with color reproductions of this type. The photographic drawing shows a side view of a 'Danlisalblue' plant. The first photograph shows a top view of a flowering 'Danlisalblue' plant. The second photograph shows a side view of a flowering 'Danlisalblue' plant.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe the new cultivar as grown in Moshav Mishmar Hashiva, Israel, in Mediterranean climate at sea level, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice. Irrigation and fertilization use is common to commercial practice for *Limonium*. Color references are made to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (RHS) (published 2001) except where general colors of ordinary significance are used. Color values were taken under daylight conditions at approximately 10:00 AM in Moshav Mishmar Hashiva, Israel. The age of the plant described was 1

year old, in its second flash and the stem which used to determine the RHS colour was at 30-50% open flower stage.

PLANT:

General Appearance and Form:

Height: 70-90cm

Spread: 40-50 cm

Growth habit: Erect

Growth rate: 7-9 weeks from planting to the first bloom.

Branching habit and description: Panicle

Flowering stem length: 70-90cm

Flowering Response: Day natural

Flowering Season: All year; spring, summer and autumn in open field, during the winter in greenhouse.

Winter Hardiness/weather tolerance: Frost tender

Postproduction longevity: 2 weeks

Time to initiate roots: Once tissue culture plantlets show small roots, plantlets are transferred from the tissue culture medium to a peat soil, then placed in 100% humid condition for 7-14 days at 18-35^0 C, then the plantlets are transferred to regular irrigation and fertilization.

Time to produce a rooted cutting: 70-45 days from the arrival from the tissue culture laboratory until the plants are ready to plant.

Fragrance: None

STEMS:

Appearance: Panicle

Aspect: Stable, Erect

Length: 70-90cm

Texture: Smooth

Color: Green Group RHS 139 A

FOLIAGE:

Overall Shape of Leaf: Obovate

Apex: Obtuse

Base: Cuneate

Length: 15-30cm

Width: 4-6cm

Margin: Entire

Texture: Smooth

Color of Upper Surface:

Mature leaf: Green Group RHS 136 A

Immature leaf: Green Group RHS 136 A

Color of Lower Surface:

Mature leaf: Green Group RHS136 B

Immature leaf: Green Group RHS 136 B

Venation: None

Petiole:

Length: 3-12cm

Diameter: 3-4mm

Color: Green Group RHS 141 C

INFLORESCENCE:

Flower type and habit: Erect, trumpet shaped

Flower size:

Diameter: 0.5-0.8mm

Depth: 0.5mm

Overall shape: Trumpet shaped.

Calyx:

Shape: Tubular

Length: 0.5 mm

Width: 1 mm

Margin: Entire

Texture: Smooth

Color when opening: White at the base and light violet at the top.

Color when fully open: White at the base and light violet at the top.

Corolla:

Shape: Round Saucer-shaped

Number of petals: 5 separate petals

Diameter: 5-7mm

Length: 3 mm

Width: 1 mm

Apex: Obtuse

Margin: Entire

Texture: Smooth

Color when opening:

Upper surface: Violet-Blue Group RHS 93 B

Lower surface: Violet-Blue Group RHS 93 B

Color when fully open:

Upper surface: Violet-Blue Group RHS 93 B

Lower surface: Violet-Blue Group RHS 93 C

Sepals:

Quantity: 4

Shape: Oval when stretched out and semi tubular on the plant.

Length: 2-4 mm

Width: 1-2 mm

Form: Alternate, very dense

Color: Green and transparent .

Upper surface: Green RHS 141 C

Lower surface: Green RHS 141 C

Bud:

Color: RHS 93 B

Shape: Oblong

Length: 2-3 mm

Diameter: 1 mm

Peduncle description: Borne from 2 sepals, 4 mm long, smooth texture; color RHS 141 C

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS:

Stamen: 5 in number; white in color

Anthers: 5 in number, 0.5 – 1 mm in length; brown-black in color

Pistil: 5 in number

Stigma: Filament; white in color

Style: Filament; white in color

Ovary: Green in color

Seeds:

Width: 1 mm

Length: 2 mm

Shape: Oval

Color: Brown

Fruit: White-brown in color

Pollen: Yellow in color; 50-100 in quanitity on each anther

DISEASE/PEST RESISTANCE/SUSCEPTIBILITY: Unknown